



**COMMUNITY VISIONING SURVEY REPORT**  
**LOCAL 20/20**  
**MARCH 11, 2021**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local 20/20 conducted a community visioning survey related to COVID-19 from June 1 through July 9, 2020, focused on imagining a productive and positive future for the county upon emerging from the pandemic. There were 170 responses from residents of the county. While there was a concerted effort to reach areas outside of Port Townsend, 58% of the responses were from Port Townsend and responses were mainly received from individuals 50 and older.

Despite these inadvertent biases, a wide diversity of opinions was expressed and a number of common themes arose in the responses, summarized below. Important debates emerged. Some hoped to return to the way things were, while others hoped for a different future with more diverse housing for all and high-paying local jobs for young people and families, more support for and reliance on local food and businesses, more services, and thoughtful planning for the future. Some were happy to experience a reduction in tourists, others were concerned or impacted by that. Some felt there were some silver linings to the pandemic that could be retained such as telemedicine, less pollution, and time for self-reflection, while others experienced substantial hardship and loss.

Some of the common themes and debates across the questions are described below, in the order in which they were most frequently mentioned among all the questions asked. More detailed summaries of the responses to each question are provided in the main report, and an appendix is available of all anonymous responses of those who gave their permission to reproduce them.

- **Economy** – The economy was the strongest theme across all questions, as it touches on nearly every aspect of recovery and our vision for our community’s future – businesses, jobs, housing, food security, health care, and the ability to provide social services and infrastructure. The responses reflected debates that were pre-existing in the county, as well as those issues worsened by the pandemic. Desires expressed included:
  - More and better paying local jobs in trades and non-seasonal businesses, with more job opportunities for young people and family-wage jobs.
  - Affordable housing for anyone at any level working in the county so that job opportunities can be more easily filled and commuting from other counties is no longer necessary.
  - An economy less dependent on tourism, with strong support for local businesses that reflect unique aspects of the county’s and Port Townsend’s historical strengths, such as farming, marine trades, light manufacturing, holistic health practitioners, arts and music, and specialty trades and design/construction. There was some debate on the value of tourism and big box stores, within limits.

Strong concerns were expressed about the rising wealth inequality and the higher cost of living, including housing costs, taxes, and utilities, for long-time residents and young families. The trend toward an aging community was also of concern. A more balanced community that is supportive of working families was a goal for many. Some felt that teleworking is likely here to stay, with mixed feelings expressed. There was hope that these workers could be integrated into the community in innovative ways. And there is continued interest in a complementary currency.

Very strong support for local businesses was expressed and relief that many of them had found new ways to be resilient and continue to operate during the pandemic. Other businesses owners were frustrated and angry that their businesses were impacted or closed despite a relatively low threat of COVID-19 in Jefferson County and felt that the response could have been more nuanced.

- **Communities & Neighbors** – By far the greatest response regarding what strengths or resources our county already has was its great people, described as talented, creative, resilient, knowledgeable, amazing volunteers,

and with strong community spirit. Examples included neighbors helping neighbors, sharing food and shelter and financial resources, providing role models, and caring for one another – both during the crisis and as a resource for creatively rebuilding at a local level. Similarly, social isolation was also highest on the list of things people were/are suffering from during the pandemic, including particularly family and friends who are far away.

- **Healthcare** – Telemedicine was one of the few things that people appreciated during the pandemic and hope to retain. At the same time, many people were afraid to go to the hospital or travel to appointments and some medical needs went largely unmet as healthcare networks became increasingly burdened. Elders in need of physical therapy and exercise lost ground with facilities such as gyms and pools closed.

The pandemic placed a spotlight on needs that were already underserved, including mental health and addiction treatment, inequities between the city and the county, lack of specialty practitioners (particularly with an elderly population), lack of transportation to specialty services in other cities, and long waiting times for appointments and doctors. Most respondents had very positive things to say about Jefferson Healthcare practitioners and the hospital's and County's response to the pandemic, while expressing support for simpler and more universal coverage such as Medicare for all. There was also strong support for the county's holistic practitioner community and natural health care practices.

- **Environment & Energy** – The environment was number one in values to keep in mind for the future, and number three in top priorities to protect when rebuilding our economy. There was great appreciation for the beautiful environment, forests, farmland, coastlines, and mountains of our county as one of our greatest assets and the reasons people live here now and from time immemorial. Comments recommended protecting and respecting the environment, keeping a rural atmosphere, maintaining a balance between making productive use of and protecting these resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for climate impacts such as rising sea levels, and increasing the availability of solar energy (including off the grid). In the early days of the pandemic, there was enjoyment of the cleaner air and reduced noise and traffic, and many wished that this more peaceful environment could continue through thoughtful planning, particularly in Port Townsend.
- **Housing** – Housing received the most responses as the first thing people wanted to focus on, and was also a common theme throughout the other questions. Issues raised included:
  - Affordable housing in general, especially for starter homes and families
  - Housing for workers, from farmworkers to service jobs to middle income earners
  - Affordable rentals and more rental options
  - Housing with dignity for the homeless; use of the golf course or fairgrounds or other large properties for tiny homes
  - Fewer absentee owners with second homes, vacation homes, or short-term rentals, and some means of discouraging or taxing such uses
  - More flexible development regulations to allow cohousing, multiple tiny homes or ADUs, living off the grid, limiting CC&Rs, and reducing construction costs related to code requirements
  - Avoiding impacting farmland and forest resources with housing developments
  - Bringing in sewers to more of the county to support housing development
  - Addressing the affordability crisis for seniors in the rising real estate market
- **Community Services and Resilience** – There was great appreciation for our non-profits during the COVID-19 crisis, especially the food banks and help for small businesses and local farms. The hospital and clinics, fire department, trails, libraries, community center, pool, beaches, and Fort Worden were all mentioned, along with the many non-profits who stepped up to help the community during this pandemic. In the future, there were

requests for more mental health and addiction resources, better support for the homeless, additional services for seniors, youth activities, and public restrooms and showers. Many expressed a desire for the county as a whole and neighborhoods to be more resilient and self-sufficient, both in a daily sense and in emergencies. Areas identified included food, medical care, transportation, energy, and elder care.

- **Attitudes** – When asked what values the community should keep uppermost as we rebuild, “kindness” was mentioned more than any other value. Other important values included collaboration, celebration, cooperation, mutual respect, and compassion, as well as community-focused values such as being there for your neighbor, the importance of family, and supporting elders. At the same time, attitudes were cited as the greatest existing challenge in reaching a shared future vision, including prejudice and discrimination, materialism, selfishness, not respecting a diversity of opinion, a rural/city divide, resistance to change, not being open to newcomers or people with differing opinions, and too many silos (i.e. different organizations working on similar things without sufficient communication between them.)
- **Government** – Suggestions for local government included more public involvement and active participation by the public in crafting policy, listening to a wider range of opinions, more law enforcement particularly of property crimes, a review of police funding and police practices, concerns about burdensome regulations (especially with respect to housing), and the division of tax dollars between the city and the county. Both praise and criticism was offered of elected officials in general and related to handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a concern that already-strained government budgets will be drained by the pandemic, making it even harder to meet pre-existing needs as well as new challenges.
- **Food** – Very strong support for local farmers was expressed, along with a desire to grow more of our own food and increase community food security. Food banks, small farms, community gardens, and the Farmer’s Markets continuing to operate were much appreciated. There is an interest in finding ways for the county as a whole to be more food-resilient and self-sufficient. Many reported a new appreciation for growing their own food and sharing it with the community, or offered this as a healthier way of life in contrast to the dependence on the commercial economy.
- **Self-Reflection (95)** – During the pandemic, some appreciated the slower pace of life, the opportunity to reprioritize, and a reduction in consumerism. For those not struggling with hardship, it offered a chance to reconnect with family, with nature, and with useful work such as gardening, growing food, and making things by hand. Others reconsidered their current lifestyle and made significant changes. Many of our relationships and personal strengths were tested in unexpected and unimagined ways. Others noted that the ideological divide over many important topics in our county has been brought to the surface and will need to be addressed.
- **Social Justice (76)** – Many desired a future community that is more diverse in every way, has more youth and young families, a community that welcomes all, and that celebrates and respects the Treaty Rights of Native Americans. A wish for political and cultural diversity and welcoming of differing viewpoints was mentioned often, particularly in the context of city/county divisions. County residents particularly mentioned not feeling heard or having their viewpoints reflected in conversations such as this one. A wish was expressed for less of a divide between rich and poor.
- **Transportation (69)** – Many responses mentioned enjoyment of less traffic during the pandemic. In the future, a desire was expressed for more trails and increased walkability/bike-ability, more public transit, more electric vehicle opportunities, and concerns about road quality in many neighborhoods. It was suggested that current

transit could better connect to other areas outside the county, that more transit options for commuters, students, etc. were desired, and that alternatives to public transport are also needed (e.g., more taxis, ubers, etc.).

- **Utilities/Infrastructure/Internet (62)** – The pandemic highlighted the importance of affordable internet, and many felt it should be a public utility or freely offered to all to reduce disparities in access. Some felt that many uses of the internet that were instituted under the pandemic may remain in place, such as telemedicine, telework, government business, educational opportunities, scheduling, and shopping, and need to be accessible. Energy-efficiency was also a frequent comment, with the opportunity to convert to solar energy and reduce use of fossil fuels. Off-the-grid utilities were also mentioned, such as solar and composting toilets, to reduce the cost of home-building and ownership. The continuing need for sewer in the county was brought up.
- **Communication** – While this was not a frequent topic overall, it was the second-highest response for the question on the first thing people should focus on (after housing). There was a strong sense that we could improve our community-wide civic engagement and communication, and that this will be important as we develop a recovery plan and vision for the future. Community charrettes were mentioned a few times.
- **Education** – Although this topic was not addressed as frequently as others, it is likely that this reflects the lack of responses from younger families due to the challenges faced by parents under COVID, rather than a lack of interest or importance. Respondents envisioned safe and free education for all, a choice in where children go to school and alternative educational approaches, a desire for more trade mentoring and apprenticeships in the community, getting kids back to school, and expanded educational opportunities for adults and seniors as well as children. There was an interest in learning about fishing, farming, boating, and sustainable living.
- **Arts & Activities** – Many respondents missed the restaurants, music, arts, and festivals that the county prides itself in. There were differences of opinion on the largest festivals and the degree to which the economy has become dependent on tourism, with a large majority in favor of reducing the amount and impacts of tourism on the community while retaining a vibrant, quirky, and fun atmosphere. Community support of the arts was mentioned often as an important part of people’s ideal vision. Activities for teenagers and seniors were mentioned as needing enhancement.
- **COVID-19** – While this was not a survey about COVID-19 directly (except for the first question), many respondents focused on issues related to COVID-19, including strong differences of opinion about masking, business closures, social distancing as the “new normal,” individual liberty vs. the collective good, and the advice and actions of elected officials. Participants made strong and eloquent arguments on both sides and were frustrated with others’ inability to listen to their point of view. Some individuals felt that others were threatening their health and safety, while others felt that their livelihoods and liberty were unduly endangered. This was the area in which the strongest divides and greatest frustrations were expressed, and is notable given that many of these respondents were largely in agreement in so many other areas.

We are deeply grateful for all those who took the time to respond, and we hope this report is useful to individuals, organizations, and governments throughout the county as we all continue our work toward the betterment of our community.

## INTRODUCTION

Local 20/20 conducted a community visioning survey related to COVID-19 from June 1 through July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Given the distancing and isolation that has occurred, we wanted to hear how this crisis was affecting the people of our county. When we emerge from this event, our community will need to rebuild and many things will have changed. The pandemic has brought to light both strengths and weaknesses in our communities and our personal lives. We wanted to give people the opportunity to consider and express their concerns and hopes for the future, and to capture that vision during this unusual time.

We recognize that much has changed since this was first conceived. At the time, most of us assumed the pandemic would be over in a few months. However, as we now move into the second year of the pandemic, how to rebuild our county's future is an even more important and relevant question.

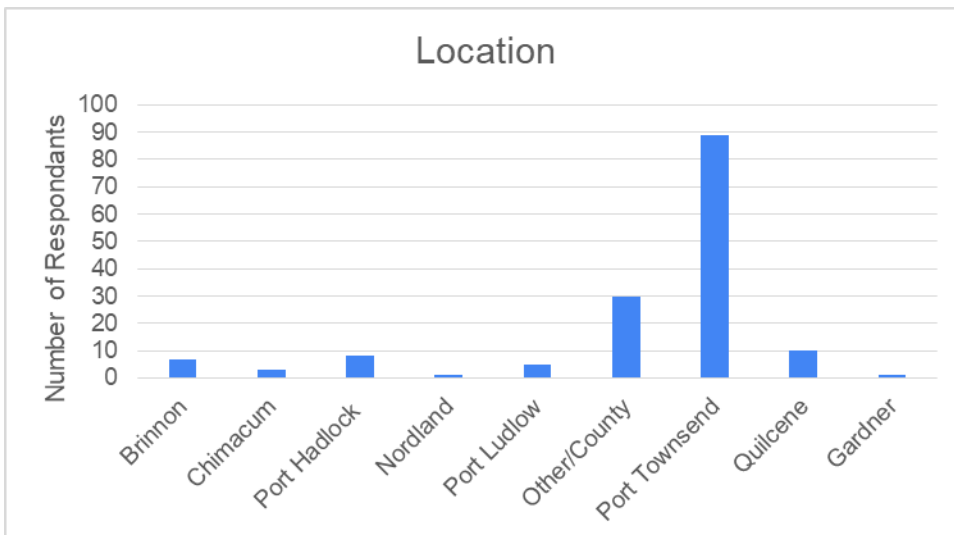
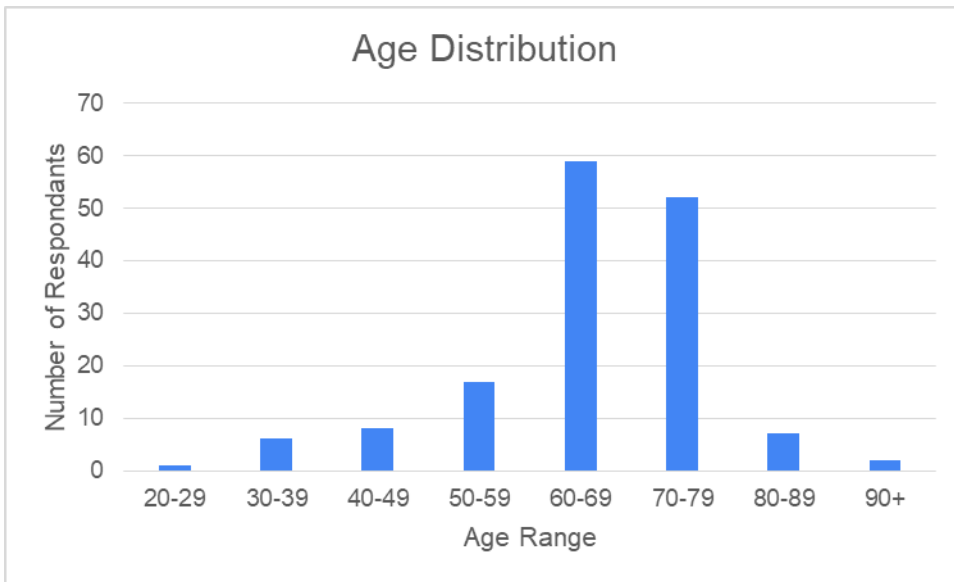
The survey was advertised and distributed in the following ways to East Jefferson County residents:

- Press releases went out to the local newspapers and the two local radio stations.
- The announcement was sent out to the Jefferson County NPREP Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness list, NextDoor, and to a variety of local organizations including the Jefferson County and Port Townsend Libraries, WSU, Bareboards, Jefferson Community Foundation, JCIRA, Housing Solution Network, the City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County, Jefferson PUD, and others, asking them to share it.
- Flyers about the survey were distributed to all three foodbanks in Jefferson County, and through the Jefferson County Library Bookmobile. Flyers were also posted at the Quilcene and Brinnon Post Offices, and a variety of south county residents were asked to distribute it to their local email lists.
- An announcement was included in the Local 20/20 weekly announcements from June 1 – June 29, 2021, and posted on the Local 20/20 website and Facebook page.
- All of the above provided both a link to the on-line survey, or a phone number to request a paper copy. One paper copy was requested but not returned, and another one was filled out and returned.

A total of 175 surveys were returned. Five of these were from individuals residing outside the county and were removed, leaving 170 responses.

We initially expected to distribute this report in the fall of 2020, but the primary author fell ill and is still recovering. We apologize for the delay, but hope the results will still be valuable to the community.

The survey asked for some limited demographic information, specifically age range and zip code. The responses were as follows:



While there was a specific effort to reach areas outside of Port Townsend, 58% of the responses were from Port Townsend. In addition, most responses were from retirement-age individuals, with relatively few responses from young families, business owners, and those in the workforce. We had explored the idea of sending the survey to every resident in the county, but it was not possible under the circumstances of the shutdown. In the end, we opted for electronic distribution and flyers.

Due to these demographic issues, it is important when reading the results of the survey to realize that the responses are likely unrepresentative, in that some groups and their concerns are almost certainly underrepresented – for example, parents, workers, young people, those without stable homes or incomes, and those residing in more rural areas of the county. In addition, those in greatest crisis and facing severe challenges due to COVID-19 may not have had the energy or time to respond.

The survey consisted of the following questions:

- How has this crisis affected you? What are you experiencing?
- Have any positive changes been made during this crisis that we may want to keep or build on (for example, greater access to telemedicine)?

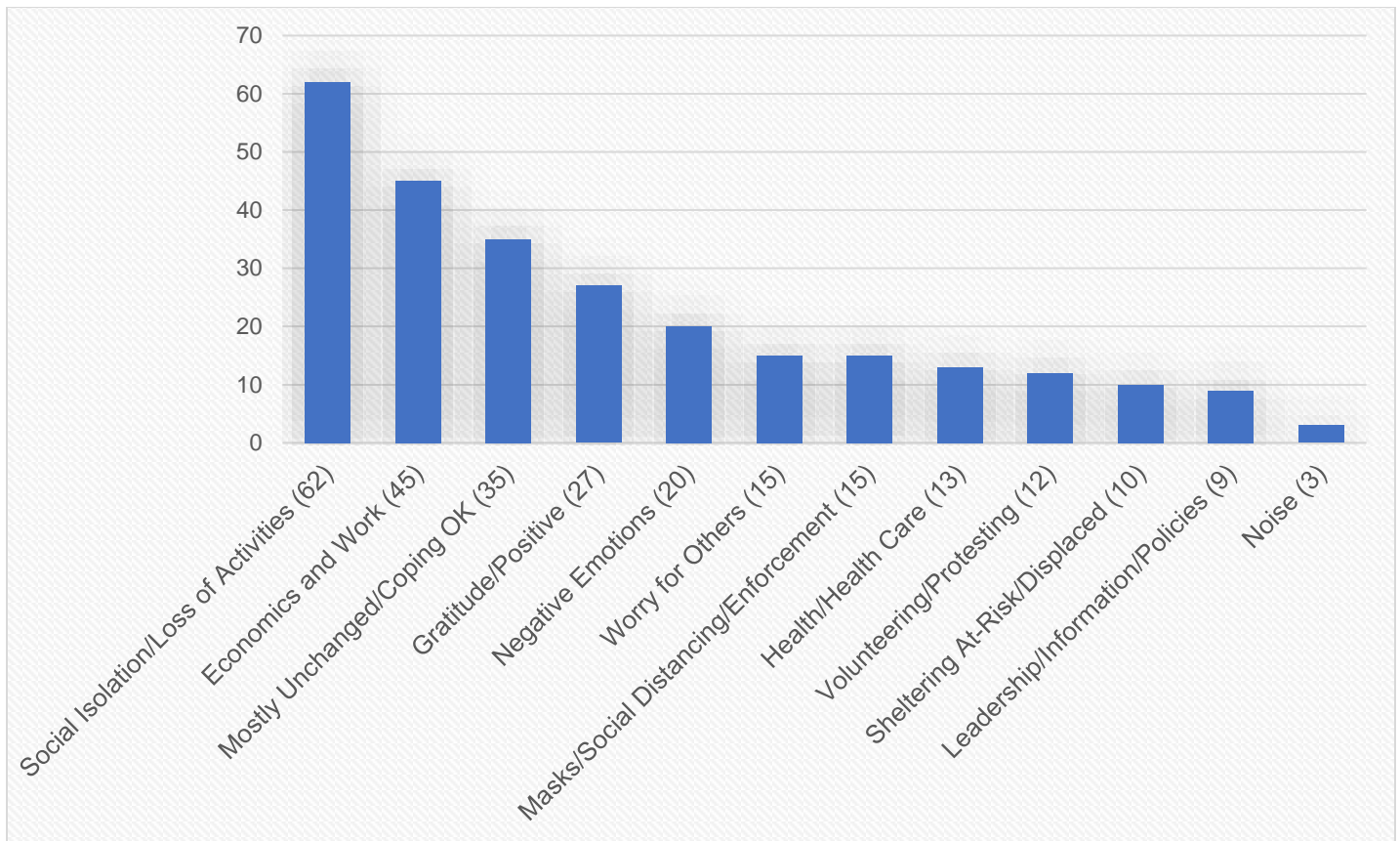


- Describe our community in the future as you imagine it could be
- What values would you like our community to keep uppermost as we make changes for the future?
- What resources would you like our community to have?
- What are the existing challenges in reaching this vision, either pre-existing or COVID-related?
- What strengths or resources does our community already have that we could build on?
- What is the FIRST thing you would like the people to focus on?
- In your opinion, what are the other 3 to 5 highest priorities to work on?
- Anything else you would like to share or comment on?

It is worth considering that the responses below were provided relatively early in the pandemic, when its full course and length were not yet envisioned by most.

In the sections below, the responses to each question are summarized and representative quotes are included. Responses have been organized by topic, with the number of responses for each topic indicated. Full responses from those individuals that gave permission are provided anonymously in the Appendix, which is available at <https://I2020.org/survey/>.

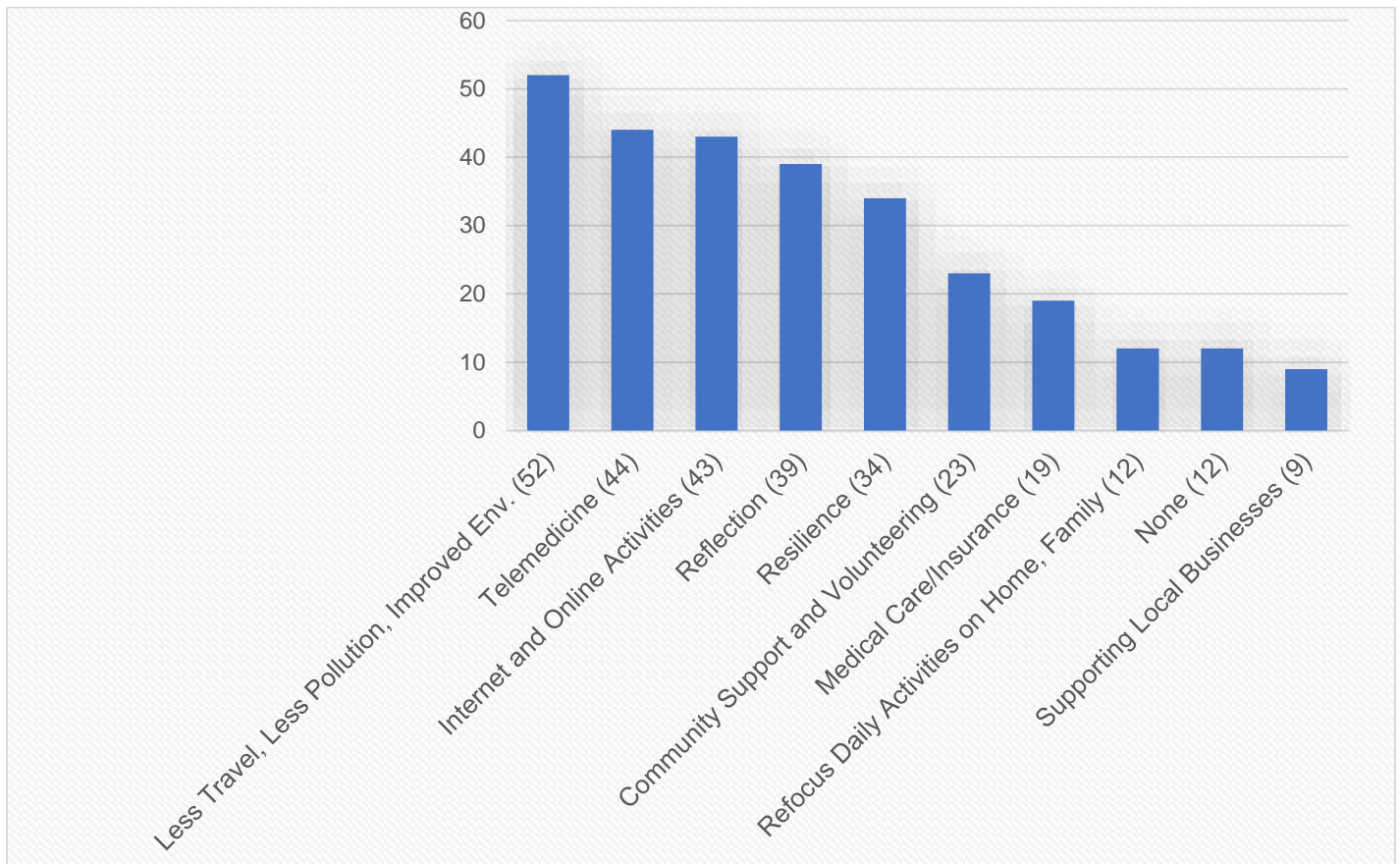
## Q1: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW - HOW HAS THIS CRISIS AFFECTED YOU? WHAT ARE YOU EXPERIENCING?



- Social Isolation/Loss of Activities (62)** – People were impacted by places being closed – restaurants, stores, movies, libraries, pool, gym, theater, clubs, church, festivals, etc. Many expressed feelings of social isolation and loneliness, noting that they are missing family, partners, volunteer work, and friends, and the loss of physical affection. For example, “I am experiencing some isolation. I miss my friends and group activities.” “I felt so anonymous when going to the grocery or other necessary stores.”
- Economics and Work (45)** –The impact on people’s work include loss of work, reduction in work, financial insecurity, loss of child care, challenges of working from home, challenges of working while wearing a mask. Example: “A 50% reduction in my business income.” Some felt the impact on businesses was due to an overreaction: “The overreaction of both government and individual citizens has significantly and detrimentally affected my small business.”
- Mostly Unchanged/Sheltering and Safe/Coping OK (35)** – Some noted they have not been impacted much, including many retired people. Some worked from home before COVID-19. Others noted they are spending less. “We live in a beautiful place where it is possible to safely enjoy the outdoors. Our community has taken the guidance seriously, and for most of the time I have felt safe.”
- Gratitude/Positive (27)** – Many mentioned they enjoyed the slower pace, reduction in traffic, spending more time with family, and appreciated where they live. “Enjoying working in the garden, hiking, and biking.”

- **Negative Emotions (20)** – This group expressed feelings of stress, anxiety, frustration and anger. “Changing of routines, not being able to do anything without conscious thought, is exhausting!” “The whole thing is depressing. Masks, restaurant limitations, physical distancing, no end of pandemic in sight.”
- **Worry for Others (15)** – There were concerns for family, those less fortunate, local businesses and non-profits, and children. “I am experiencing sadness for our homeless, unemployed, and mentally ill citizens. Also for our shopkeepers, nursing home residents, and school children/parents. “
- **Masks/Social Distancing/Enforcement (15)** – There were concerns expressed on both sides of the mask protocol. Some felt that masks were unnecessary, others were concerned that people were not wearing masks when they should be. “I encounter a significant number of people who are brazenly defying the recommended protocols, not wearing masks, no distancing etc.” “Since when does a mask keep a human healthy? “
- **Health/Health Care (13)** – Some expressed fear about going to healthcare appointments and concerns about the impacts of not receiving healthcare, and lack of exercise due to the pool and gyms being closed. “At "elderly" ages and with several "at risk" conditions, we have been reluctant to use any health care facilities during this time.”
- **Volunteering/Protesting (12)** – Some are able to do their volunteer work online, others noted it was harder to advocate for the homeless. A number mentioned the George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests, and were attending them or in support of them. One noted they were making masks. “Even as I weep for those suffering and continue my social and environmental activism from afar, I remain safe.”
- **Sheltering At-Risk/Displaced (10)** – A number of people noted they are self-isolating, or staying home except for necessities. “I am fortunate enough to be able to stay home except for necessities. I am among the vulnerable population.” “Given my age, I'm in the endangered category with respect to the virus. I try to be as careful as I can, but I'm worried.”
- **Leadership/Information/Policies (9)** – Some felt anger at national leadership, inconsistencies in local policies, and fear being perpetuated in the county. “I'm upset that politicians are trying to use this crisis to con us into accepting more control.” “In light of the incredibly low infection rate and zero deaths in Jefferson County, I believe the regulations to have been excessively harsh and severe.”
- **Noise (3)** – some noted there is too much noise due to lawnmowers, others noted less noise from cars and planes. “All my life I've wished for relief from cars and planes and their pollution and noise.”

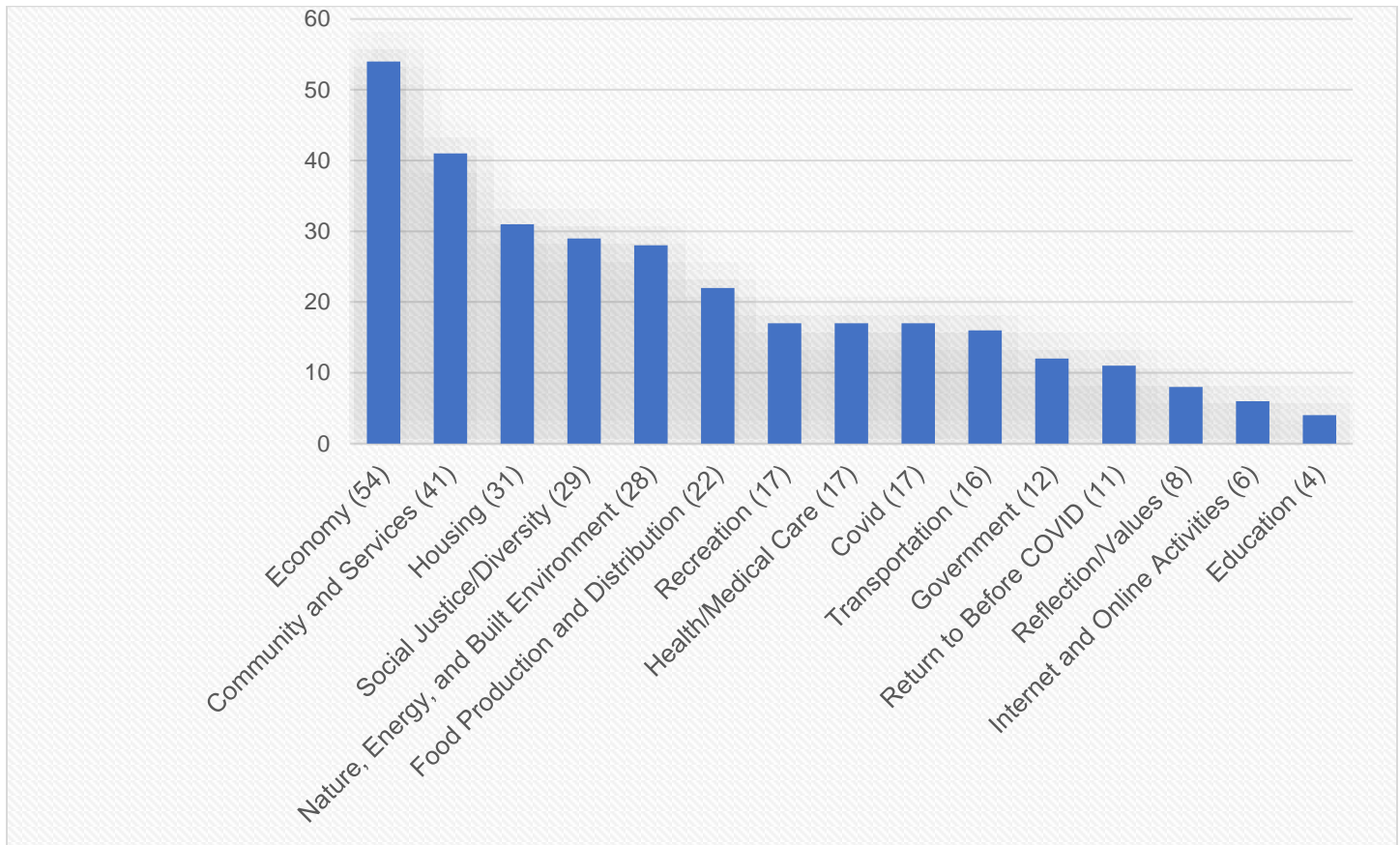
## Q2: HAVE ANY POSITIVE CHANGES BEEN MADE DURING THIS CRISIS THAT WE MAY WANT TO KEEP OR BUILD ON



- **Less Travel, Less Pollution, and Improved Environment (52)** – many people enjoyed the quiet, the reduction in traffic, and in some case, the reduction of tourists. “Also much quieter, less traffic and cleaner air”, “The fewer motor vehicles, the healthier our environment.” “Less tourism was the silver lining for many here.”
- **Telemedicine (44)** – A number of people felt that greater access to telemedicine has been a positive, and should continue in some form longer term. A few noted it has limitations, and expressed concerns about relying too much on it. “Telemedicine should be here to stay.” “It’s about time. And it’s convenient and it works.”
- **Internet and Online Activities (43)** – Many noted that this taught us how many can work from home, and hold meetings online, saving time and the environment, and that it has increased participation, and was helpful for public participation. Also greater tele-entertainment, and connecting with friends and family online, was a positive as well. “I also think this has taught us that so many of us can work from home.” “Zoom meetings can be easier to attend and may lower the hurdle for public participation. “
- **Reflection (39)** – Many noted they appreciated the slower pace, and have been reprioritizing. A number noted that there is less focus on consumerism. Others noted that it has exposed systemic problems such as housing affordability, social justice and social inequity, as well as an ideological divide in this community. Others enjoyed more time in and appreciation of the natural world. “If anything, this crisis has illuminated the ideological divide in our community. We have a lot of work ahead of us.” “We seem to be getting used to being less voracious as “consumers””. “We’re spending more time on what matters.” “Finding we don’t need more stuff.”

- **Resilience (34)** – A number of respondents noted they are making more things themselves and growing more of their food. It was noted that we are not well prepared for non-earthquake disasters. People appreciated how our community has helped each other, financially, food banks, support services, neighbors helping neighbors, and the Port, PUD, City and County working together on recovery. Some found the apps intimidating, and noted “our local libraries can assist with education around technology which they are already doing so well. “Other comments included “A return to a homesteading attitude.” “Emergency preparedness awareness.” “Recognition that we can no longer count on state or feds in a disaster (e.g., for PPE) so we must be more self-reliant.” “It seems to have heightened awareness, of compassion and caring for the welfare of the community as a whole, and rallied many to support our fragile economy, as best we can.”
- **Community Support and Volunteering (23)** – People appreciated all those who have stepped up to help others, and were appreciative of our frontline workers. Neighbors have been supporting each other in many ways. “It has perhaps made me more appreciative of the essential services I once took for granted: grocery clerks, postal workers, teachers and -- yes, parents and grandparents!” “The fact that we wear masks, not only for our own protection but for the protection of others is a positive thrust towards making us more aware that everything we do impacts others in some way.”
- **Medical Care/Insurance (19)** – There was appreciation for how Jefferson Healthcare, the Board of County Commissioners, and Dr. Locke have responded to the crisis, as well as our grocery stores. People appreciated the better hygiene procedures and the quick response of our community. “I think the county commissioners, Dr. Locke, Health Department and many people who work in local government have made progress coming together and working together to keep the county healthy.” “Hand washing used to be a basic and common sense practice, let’s keep that up!”
- **Refocus Daily Activities on Home, Family, House/Yard (12)** – Many wrote that they enjoyed having more time at home, doing more cooking, and planting gardens. “The positive changes have been more time at home, more time for gardening, more time with my kids.”
- **None (12)** – “I cannot think of a single change that I would consider positive.”
- **Supporting Local Businesses (9)** – “Supporting a local economy has been a positive change, buying local and farm raised meat and produce, take-out meals at local restaurants, and lots of donations to the food bank.” “Forced move away from tourism and toward supporting local businesses, hopefully that will last.”

### Q3: DESCRIBE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE AS YOU IMAGINE IT COULD BE



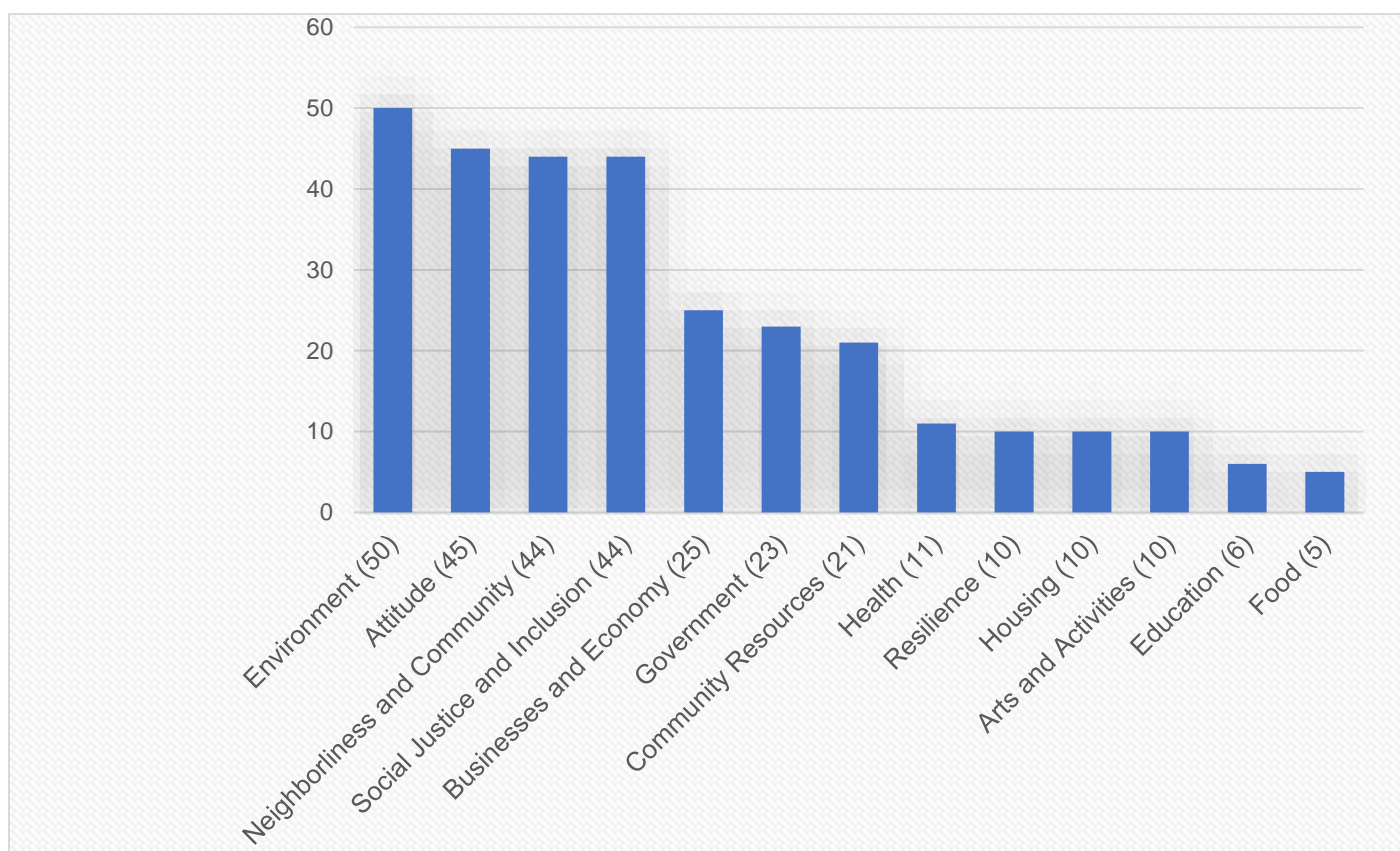
- Economy (54)** – Some described the need for a living wage, and also cooperative arrangements outside of the currency-based system, more jobs for young people, more small businesses, more support for the marine trades. Potentially some light industry to replace some income from tourism. An economy less dependent on tourism. More telecommuting, adequate childcare, more local shopping, and more local products. Some wanted to allow bigger stores. A complementary currency that drives more trade between businesses. More equitable taxation. “A greater diversity of employment opportunities--both in-person and remote.” “I want to see the marine trades supported through and after this crisis, and I would hope PT expands on that unique aspect of our community.” “Success for every farmer who wants to farm.” “We’re a place that is known for its many musicians, healers and practitioners of healthful ways. We’re a place known for its highly skilled marine and woodworking trades.” “Jobs for young people that pay a living wage.” “A future where art and music are supported abundantly and appreciated as much as any other form of work.”
- Community and Services (41)** – Some saw a future where our community is self-reliant, more connected, more organized for emergencies. Some saw a future where there was more support for meals and shelter, and mental health services, and checked in on single folks. Others desired a future less dependent on tourism and growth. “I like the way the community encourages people to help each other.” “Where the capitalist paradigm fades away into a cooperative and compassionate paradigm of community health, connectedness and resiliency.” “I would like our community to NOT be a vacation haven for the wealthy but a real community with affordable housing, living wage jobs, good schools that will draw young families.” “Stay aware that a community is extended family, and we all have a role to play in maintaining the well-being of that extended family.” “I envision our community choosing not to grow.”

- **Housing (31)** – Many wanted a future where there was adequate affordable housing and fewer second homes or vacation rentals. There was a desire for a wide variety of housing choices, and an end to homelessness. “Maintain the balance between farmland, forest, and development...,” “2nd and 3rd home owners who don’t live around here and do not rent their homes need to know the impact they are having. I support regulations and taxes that reduce this empty inventory.”
- **Social Justice/Diversity (29)** – Some desired a future with that was more diverse, more acceptance of differing views, more young people, a community that welcomes all, and “celebrates and honors the Native Americans who were here before us.” “More diversified in ages, cultural/ethnic backgrounds, education and training, occupations, lifestyles.” “Less divide between rich and poor.”
- **Nature, Energy, and Built Environment (28)** – People envisioned fewer cars, more walking and biking paths, quiet streets. Respect for the natural environment. “A community which will rise to the challenge of climate change.” “Vigilance about clean water, clean air, clean soil.” “Thinking about impacts on the 7th generation before making decisions.” Local energy sources, “decreased reliance on fossil fuels.” Some pedestrian only streets.
- **Food Production and Distribution (22)** – Responses described more support for local farmers, more local produce in grocery stores, more access to healthy food, and a future where we grow more of our own food. More community gardens. “Implement effective food systems to ensure soil, growth, labor, processing, storage, and delivery systems.” “More support for local farmers who raise meat.” “Community composting.” “The crisis with national food processing plants has made it clear that we need to support more people trying to produce food locally or for their own families.”
- **Recreation (17)** – Better markings on trails, and better maintenance. “A place for local families to hang out.” “Vibrant atmosphere with our various festivals, outdoor music, Centrum events, etc.” “Community gathering places with benches that encourage neighbors to visit with each other.”
- **Health/Medical Care (17)** – “A place where people are free and honored in their individual choices, especially around their health.” “More awareness, accurate knowledge that is, about public health matters.” “A healthy initiative. School or community programs to teach people how to cook and eat healthy.”
  - **COVID-19** – “Follow through on the mask requirement - too many not caring including tourists.” “As the number of new cases gets smaller each week, it’s time to let our people get back to work.”
- **Transportation (16)** – “Much more walkable, more buses, more trails, less dependence on cars, public water transportation such as electric ferries, more rideshare options, a fleet of electric cars to shuttle people locally, fewer cars on the road. “Would really love to see our roads fixed.”
- **Government (12)** – “Much more participation and engagement in how we govern our community - stop the 1950s patriarchy model and get small neighborhood groups engaged in betterment and taking care of each other.” “Locking up the ones breaking into homes and businesses.” “A City Council that holds regular Town Hall “Listening Sessions” that encourage people to honestly critique how the City is doing relative to the residents’ needs.” “Education is free, and so is health care.” “The way the tax dollars are spent is reassessed yearly and decided on by the diverse population.”
- **Return to Before COVID-19 (11)** – Many noted they would like it to go back to how it was. “Go back to what it was before this hogwash.” “I love Port Townsend as it is. I would love to get back into the galleries, restaurants and shops, and the National Park.”
- **Reflection/Values (8)** – “Some effort to build bridges to those in the County who feel alienated from the “elites” running the show.” “I’d love to see us reach our fullest potential of self-actualization.... but we can’t do that

important work until people are meeting their basic needs.” “Port Townsend should be a place where people can feel a sense of possibility and hope, experience beauty and be challenged to think the world anew.” “Our community would be populated with individuals more cognizant of the fragility of this wondrous peninsula and each other’s presence in it as we mindfully inhabit it going forward.”

- **Internet and Online Activities (6)** – “Internet access to everyone.” “I would like to see less dependence on the digital tools and technology we now seemingly can't do without.”
- **Education (4)** – “Families can choose where their children go to school and all schools are tuition free.” “Safety and quality education for children and vulnerable people. Opportunities for adult education.”

#### Q4: WHAT VALUES WOULD YOU LIKE OUR COMMUNITY TO KEEP UPPERMOST AS WE MAKE CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE?

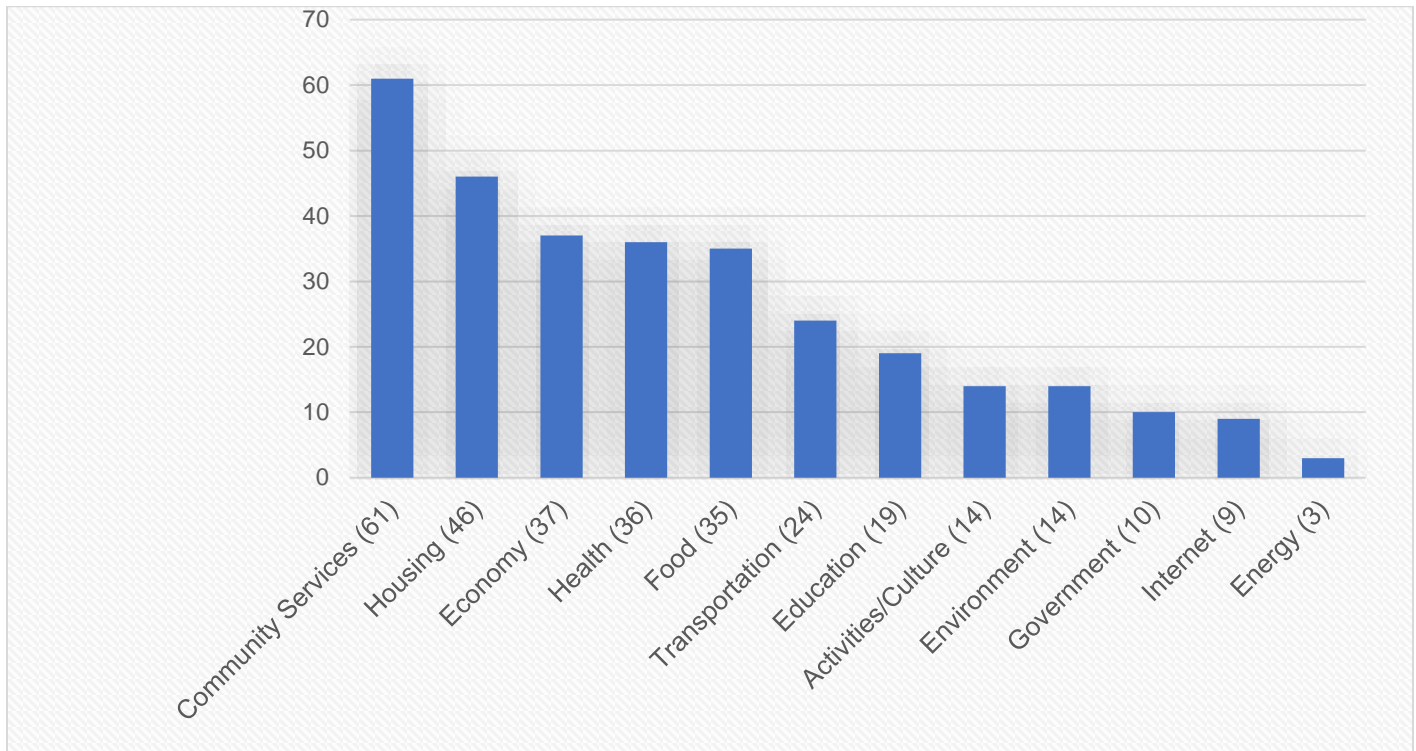


- **Environment (50)** – A number of respondents noted the need to protect and respect the environment, and for ecological sustainability. Other comments included “Keeping a rural atmosphere,” “Preserving accessible outdoor areas,” “Setting and reaching goals for carbon emissions,” “Refocus on increased outdoor public seating, walking and green space,” “Partnerships with farmers, loggers, etc. to honor sustainability in concert with our natural resources.”
- **Attitude (45)** – Kindness was mentioned often. Other comments included “Collaboration, celebration, fun,” “cooperation instead of competitiveness,” “Mutual respect, compassion for others.”



- **Neighborliness and Community (44)** Community-focused values were prominent in all areas of the county, especially in challenging times. “Being there for your neighbor,” “Support children/elders, commissioners,” “A sense of community,” “Caring for each other.”
- **Social Justice and Inclusion (44)** – Equity, social and economic equality, and inclusion were mentioned often. Also noted was “Diversity....not just in skin color, but in ideas and perspectives,” “Age diversity,” “Political and cultural diversity and tolerance,” and “Respecting Tribal Treaty Rights and the impacts of any future land developments that degrade the quality of our natural resources and destroy native heritage sites.”
- **Businesses and Economy (25)** – Supporting small local businesses, and living wage jobs were noted multiple times. There were opposing views on box stores, and tourism. A green and sustainable economy was mentioned and “Support of the marine trades.”
- **Government (23)** – This is one area where a wide diversity of views were expressed. “Safety,” “more law and order,” “individual choice and liberty,” “police training,” “value input/inclusiveness from a wider range of opinions when crafting policies,” “I would like to see us go back to the "Strong Mayor" system,” “Support our commissioners.”
- **Community Resources (21)** – Multiple responses noted the need for food and shelter accessible to everyone. “Creating structural, systemic change so that our health and well-being is not dependent upon the largesse of the wealthy,” “Support our weekly print newspaper.” Improved tidiness and sanitation were also noted.
- **Health (11)** – Health resources were mentioned multiple times. There was some pro and con discussion regarding masks, which tended to be one of the more heated topics.
- **Resilience (10)** – Local resiliency and sustainability got a number of mentions, including being better prepared for emergencies.
- **Housing (10)** – Affordable housing was mentioned often.
- **Arts and Activities (10)** – Promote and support arts/music/theater/culture, celebrate our maritime heritage.
- **Education (6)** – Get schools up and running again, better schools, alternative education, school district accountability.
- **Food (5)** – Food security, growing your own food, support and connection to farms.

## Q5: WHAT RESOURCES WOULD YOU LIKE OUR COMMUNITY TO HAVE?



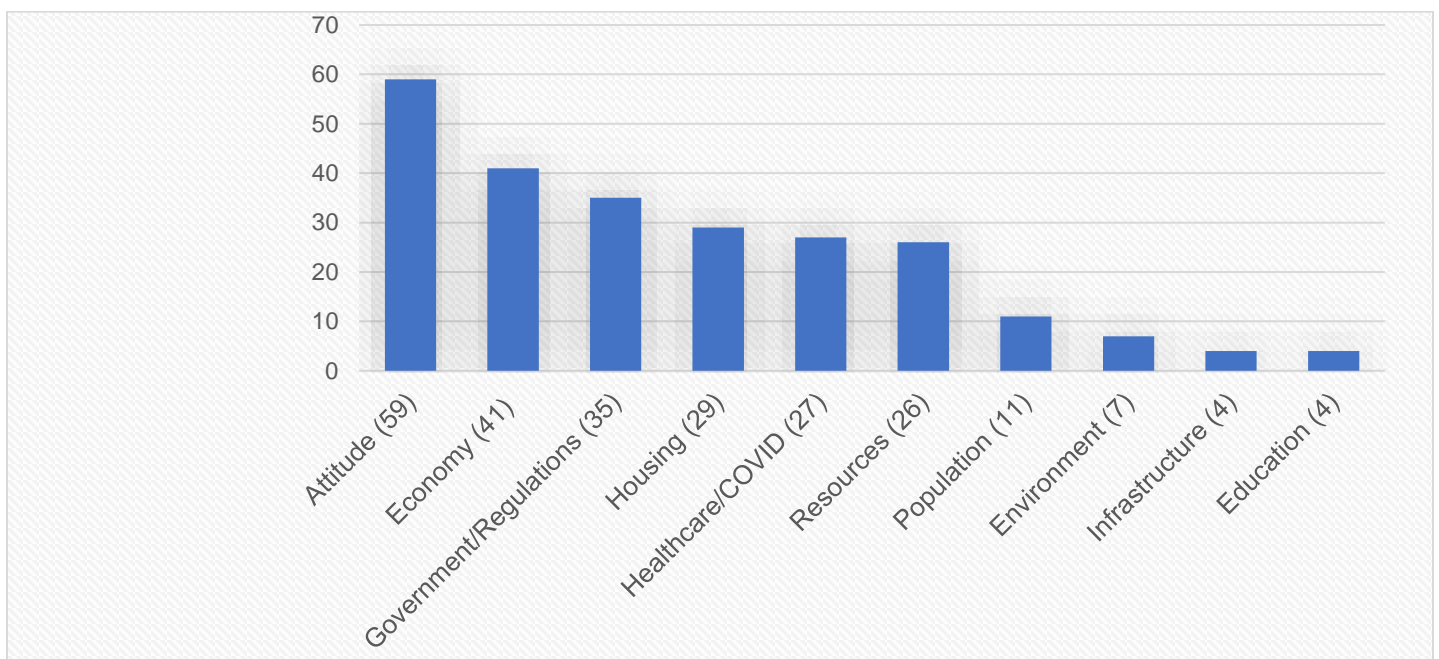
- Community Services (61)** – Some respondents wanted our community to have more elder care, day care, public bathrooms and bathing facilities, and an adequate safety net. An improved pool, re-open the pool. Better emergency preparedness. “Mental, social, and physical space to constantly experiment and innovate.” More resources for families, counseling and mental health resources, and better information on how access the resources. Indoor exercise locations. Community tool shed for borrowing. “Sustainable tax revenue that provides for quality public services such as libraries, investments in youth.” “Listening skills, compassion, tolerance for fear and uncertainty.”
- Housing (46)** – Resources requested were affordable housing and middle market income earner housing, tiny houses, more rental housing, and denser housing. A need was expressed for more creative housing alternatives and permitting flexibility and affordability. “Affordable and comfortable housing for a wide variety of income levels and family types.” “Local housing for any income level with self-sufficient systems such as solar, rainwater catchment, and wells.” “A tiny house village for the chronically homeless.” “Affordable homes for all working people.” “Look at our property tax system. As some of us with limited incomes try to keep up as housing prices escalate at an alarming rate we will not be able to afford living here.”
- Economy (37)** – “Better access to unemployment assistance for those who are still struggling to get it”, “access to ecologically friendly jobs”, mentor programs, job development programs, skilled trade training programs, and more locally owned businesses.” Specific recommendations included: “Support for a creamery/dairy,” “More active recruitment of small manufacturing,” “Encourage a diversity of businesses in Port Townsend (more locally useful, less touristy),” “Complementary currency,” One person asked “what sort of training centers or jobs can we have out in the Peninsula that will encourage people to come here to learn, spend money in our economy but not necessarily move here?”
- Health (36)** – “Equal access to healthcare during this crisis,” more mental health resources, more support for seniors, more telemedicine options, affordable healthcare for all, more local specialists such as neurology,

cardiology, and audiology. One comment about having a forum for those with a “different view of the "social distancing and vaccine" approach,” and others recommended “The rest homes need a dedicated transport ambulance (not the fire dept.),” and “We need to direct more funding and energy toward helping people to simply survive. Food, shelter and medical services should be emphasized.”

- **Food (35)** – Responses included community gardens and a garden for the food bank, more gardens in yards, food for everyone, food for children, access to healthy nutrition, food sustainability, support for local farmers, a more secure food supply/food reserves, a community butcher shop/access to mobile slaughtering. Address water rights for farmers. “More healthy eating places for lower income.”
- **Transportation (24)**
  - Non-motorized – Commenters requested access to safe non-motorized transportation pathways throughout the county, including biking and walking paths, improved trail signage. “Rental bikes and places to park/lock them, a parking garage on the outskirts of town, free shuttles.” “Once weekly "no cars allowed" in town.”
  - Public Transportation - Electric powered public transport, free public transport, smaller buses, and more frequent public transport. “Better local transportation that is not so bus-dependent.” “Better transit to the rest of the Peninsula.” “Better direct service to the airport and metro area.” “Transportation alternatives that do not depend on single car occupancy. Resources that include people with disabilities.” “More buses to Kingston, Sequim, SEATAC & Cape George.”
  - Electric vehicles/taxi service - “More resources for people (who don't have lots of money) to get and use electric cars.” “More electric vehicle charging stations.” “Road repair in town.” “Taxi service (or Lyft, or something) available in rural areas - necessary for single or disabled folks with medical appts.”
- **Education (19)** – Many commented about the need for education, good schools, and strong public education, as well as “more worthwhile higher education or other kinds of classes for people of all ages to re-tool or simply learn for the joy of learning” and “expanded educational and vocational opportunities for learning.” A larger college or university branch, stronger schools, adequate funding for education were requested. Also “Educational outreach by the fishing, maritime and boating communities” and “Education on sustainable living, both in the schools and for adults.”
- **Activities/Culture (14)** – A few comments related to “Programs to get children and young adults more physically and socially active without the use of electronic devices. “There was also a desire for a strong senior center/organization that would not only offer basic needs support but also social/enrichment opportunities, as well as one that would offer exercise opportunities. Also requested were a cultural center, late night food scene, safe places for kids to play in each neighborhood, and support for our arts and cultural organizations.
- **Environment (15)** – Responses mentioned access to nature, healthy ecosystems, “Viable and recovering fisheries, whales, and birds,” open parks and gardens, a conservation center. More open space and greenspace downtown. More recycling options. “Clean water, solar energy, most environmentally sound waste processes. Healthy soil.”
- **Government (10)** – “A widely supported juvenile justice/prevention program with activities and guidance.” A bigger jail, “Our tax money should not only be used for good streets in rich neighborhoods.” “A more Community Service approach to our police, EMT, and fire services.” “Government services of any kind ... should be adequate but not lavish.” “21<sup>st</sup> century leadership, leaders who care about their constituents.”

- **Internet (9)** – Responses centered on free internet, better internet, and broadband treated as a utility. “If we're going to work at home rather than commute long distances to work, we need to have broadband.” “Better tech infrastructure, affordable to all, to take advantage of educational, economic, health care and cultural opportunities it facilitates.”
- **Energy (3)** - “We may take a good lesson from Wildpoldsried, Bavaria in Germany. It has become energy self-sufficient by focusing on renewable energy such as wind and solar with some wood waste co-generation that provides centralized hot water heating throughout the city.” “Energy efficiency.” “A local mini-grid powered with renewable energy.”

## Q6: WHAT ARE THE EXISTING CHALLENGES IN REACHING THIS VISION, EITHER PRE-EXISTING OR COVID-RELATED?



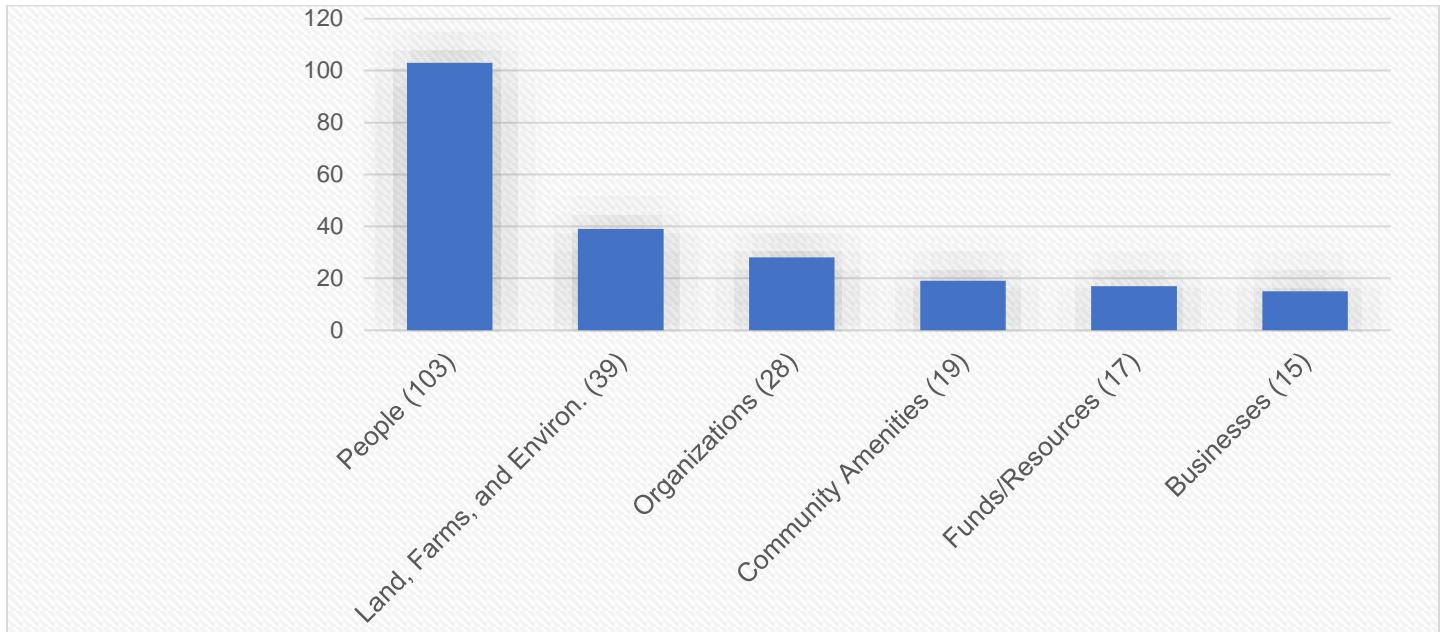
- **Attitude (59)** – Comments included concerns about racism, sexism, materialism, discrimination/oppression of indigenous peoples, and selfishness, not being open to new people, or to folks with different opinions. “A dichotomy in visions for the future - one more tourist-dependent and the other local-focused.” “Though the town has a lot of progressive people, I also find significant resistance to the changes and reinvention needed for future generations to thrive here.” “Getting past the perception of a Port Townsend and County divide.” “We need a clear expression of a community vision and a blueprint of how to get there.” “The main challenges are the deep values the culture holds around acquiring, spending, protecting one's individualism, and separateness.”
- **Economy (41)** – There were many concerned about our dependence on tourism, wealth inequality, and capitalism in general. Lack of good paying jobs, a fossil fuel dominated economy, immigration of retired people with means, and financial challenges of local businesses were mentioned. There was some debate about the potential value to the economy of telecommuters. Class differences and reliance on tourists coming by car was also mentioned, the high cost of living, and the need to support local farmers. “Convincing more community members to buy local farm food, shop in local business and use local business services.” “Dependence on tourism and low paying, often seasonal, service jobs.” “Massive immigration of retired people with means vs. a

broader cross-section of folks.” “We have some great economic models to build upon, such as the Quimper Mercantile, Food Coop, Shipwright’s Coop, our locally owned power, water, and community septic systems, PUD, Co-Lab, small vibrant local farming, Centrum and Fort Worden, etc. These local resources should become our top priority and be built upon.”

- **Government/Regulations (35)** – Inadequate local budgets were noted, county regulations being a challenge for those on a limited income, and some departments having a culture of not being helpful. There were concerns about government leaders, including lack of vision, being rigid in thinking, and a disconnect between the city and county councils and the community. “Working with county regulations has been a problem for those wishing to develop a home on a limited income.” “A seeming unclear vision of how to help small business by our leaders.” “Budgets are inadequate for housing, transportation and other pressing needs.”
- **Housing (29)** – Many concerns were voiced about the lack of affordable housing, homelessness, concerns about absentee owners, and on the challenges of having a safe shelter during COVID. “Very high rents for buildings on Water Street, people retiring in Port Townsend who want to make money by turning ADUs into expensive tourist accommodations.” “The real estate industry has too much power and influence over government and the local economy. They’ve made it impossible for most ordinary people to live here.” “Let’s have a town covenant on all properties requiring habitation.” “Land and utilities are expensive here. I bought a house here 30 years ago, and the utilities and taxes are becoming scary high.”
- **Healthcare/COVID-19 (27)** – Comments included the need to socially distance, disparities in health, not knowing what COVID-19 will leave in its wake. Others suggested more reliance on alternative and natural health care systems. “A major challenge is the politicization of basic health and environmental protections.” “Confidence in COVID-related data must be secure.” “Test results for everybody!” “We need to challenge the current dominant medical model and start learning how to heal and be healthy with natural foods, exercise, emotional openness, meditation and prayer.”
- **Resources (26)** – Money/funds was the nearly unanimous answer, including money for infrastructure, basic needs such as housing and food, education, parks and recreation, transportation. “A steady flow of funding over the long haul is needed.” “Funding for seeing sustainable ideas come to fruition is tight. I was pleased to learn of the fund, raising money for groups of people needing financial help, during the COVID crisis.” “Extreme budget stresses due to COVID that will make it even more difficult to provide for basic needs, much less creative solutions.”
- **Population (11)** – Comments related to a lack of age and race diversity, an older population, and concerns about population growth. “We have trouble attracting young people and providing the housing and reasonable paying jobs that will enable them to stay.” “Concerned about population growth. Lived on the Peninsula my entire 54 years of life, never seen such a population explosion.” “Not enough diversity in ages and race.”
- **Environment (7)** – Commenters expressed concerns about climate change, the need for carbon sequestration through agriculture and forestry, our consumption of fossil fuels, lack of awareness of the environmental crisis, and the need for tax incentives to reduce the use of fossil fuels. “Our county and our town, surrounded by saltwater, have done little about climate change other than talk about it. This one issue could wipe us out financially and physically. The survivors will look back and ask what the hell were we thinking - why didn’t we do more when it was more feasible to do so?” “We need to have the right people with a vision for attracting energy opportunities to the peninsula, envisioning efficiency and carbon sequestering through Ag and forestry.”
- **Infrastructure (4)** – Commenters were concerned about car-focused transportation, bad roads, aging infrastructure that was not designed to withstand the higher waters that are coming.

- **Education (4)** – Concerns about education being online, lack of training for teachers and parents in distance learning, 50% of kids being in poverty and on free lunch.

## Q7: WHAT STRENGTHS OR RESOURCES DOES OUR COMMUNITY ALREADY HAVE THAT WE COULD BUILD ON?

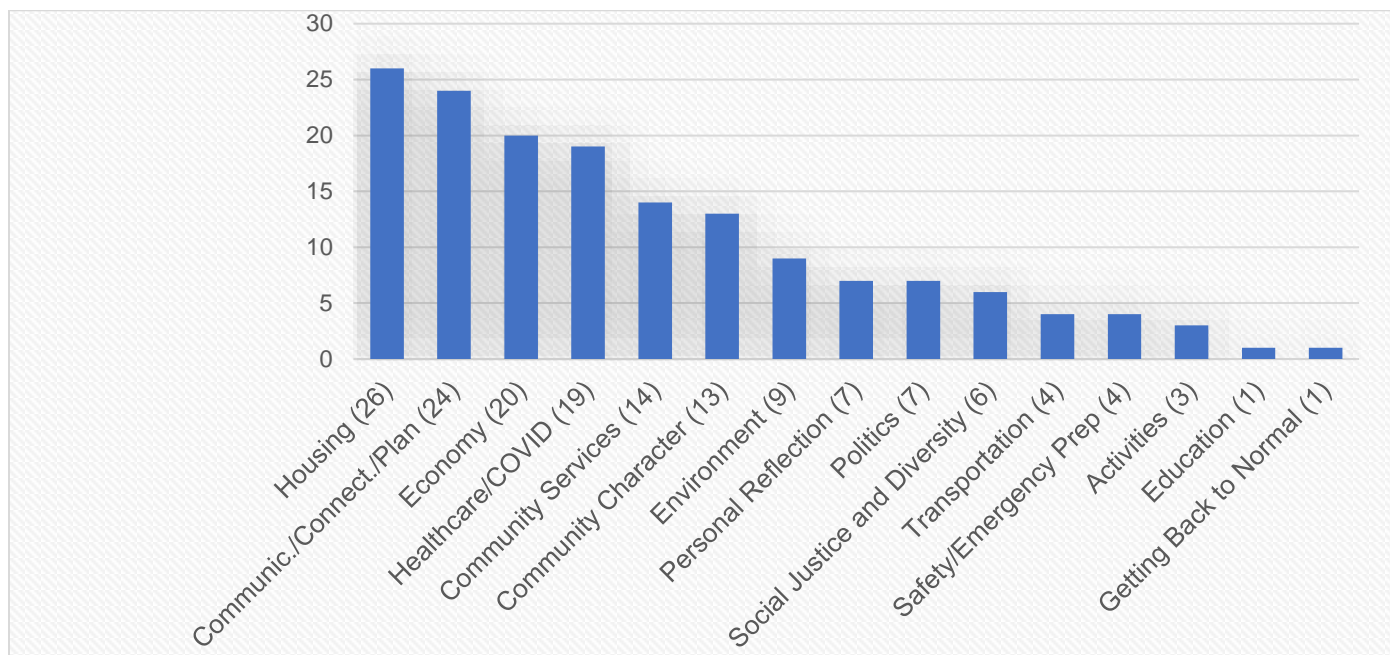


- **People (103)** – There were many comments on the character of the people who live here, such as smart, creative, amazing, brilliant, caring, well educated, resilient, accepting, and non-judgmental. Many noted the large number of retired people with a range of skills who have time to volunteer as being a resource, and the strong community spirit. Progressive and politically aware were also seen as a strength by more than a few. “Wonderful knowledge base among retirees, generally high levels of education and cultural awareness. Great resources for gardening, farming, environmental awareness. Strong creative community spirit.” “Our ability to rally behind shared visions is one of the biggest.” “Neighbors helping neighbors.” “The sheer number of people who volunteer, who come out in droves to help others.” “We are creative, boot strappy, resilient, and open-minded people with a conscience but individuals who want the space to do what we do.” “Native history and knowledge of how to live sustainably in this area.”
- **Land, Farms, and Environment (39)** – The natural environment and our small farms were described as important community resources by many. Local organizations doing restoration work were mentioned, as were environmental awareness and activism, a good climate, and good water resources. “A base of local organic sustainable farms and community gardens. Temperate climate for people to live in and excellent for growing food. Proximity to water.” “We have a beautiful physical environment and amazing farms and home-based industries that are safe for the environment.” “This community is on lands that sustained indigenous peoples for 1000s of years.” “Clean air, beautiful beaches, woods, trails.”
- **Organizations (28)** – A number of organizations were listed as a strength, including Jefferson Land Trust, Jefferson Community Foundation, Local 20/20, The Maritime Center, The Wooden Boat School, Film and Rhody Festivals, Centrum and many others mentioned. In general, there were a wide variety of responses including Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, Fire Department, emergency preparedness, health educators and the hospital, marine trades, Skillmation, and Worldwide Wisdom Council. Also, the Mainstreet program and the Chamber of

Commerce, our churches, the Farmers Market, the Foodbank, OlyCAP, the Homeless Shelter, Dove House, and the community center were noted.

- **Community Amenities (19)** – The food bank, hospital and clinics, fire department, community center, swimming pool, trails, good schools, arts, and the library were appreciated. Walking paths, bike trails, the historic town center, beaches, Fort Worden, and festivals were noted by many.
- **Funds/Resources (17)** – Many of comments in this category mentioned that there is a lot of wealth in the local community. The hope was expressed that more could be contributed locally, for housing, and “to supports arts and small businesses.” There was appreciation expressed for how much the Jefferson Community Foundation was able to raise during the COVID-19 crisis, “we can be a truly generous people when the need is obvious.” “We have many people with money. What is now lacking is a vision and a plan that will encourage them to invest in our future.” One suggested, “We should ask people buying extra homes to pay for leaving them empty.”
- **Businesses (15)** – There was appreciation for how small businesses and farms can and have nimbly adapted. There was support for small local businesses in general and several specifically mentioned including The Leader, Don’s Pharmacy, as well as marine trades, arts and entertainment. There was support for diversifying our local businesses to not be overly reliant on tourism. “We have a strong community of arts, entertainment, small shop keepers, construction, and boat building/maintenance. Strengthen these.” “Embrace our rural economy and figure out what services we are lacking and go about increasing those as job opportunities.” “An active business community (with a little prayer for its survival).”

## Q8: WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD LIKE THE PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON?



- **Housing (26)** – There was general and strong support for affordable housing especially for those who work here, as well as middle income housing. There were a few comments recommending reviewing the regulatory roadblocks to getting more housing built, and on improving substandard housing. “We HAVE to solve our housing problem for low income people.” “Housing for every single person that has a lockable door, and

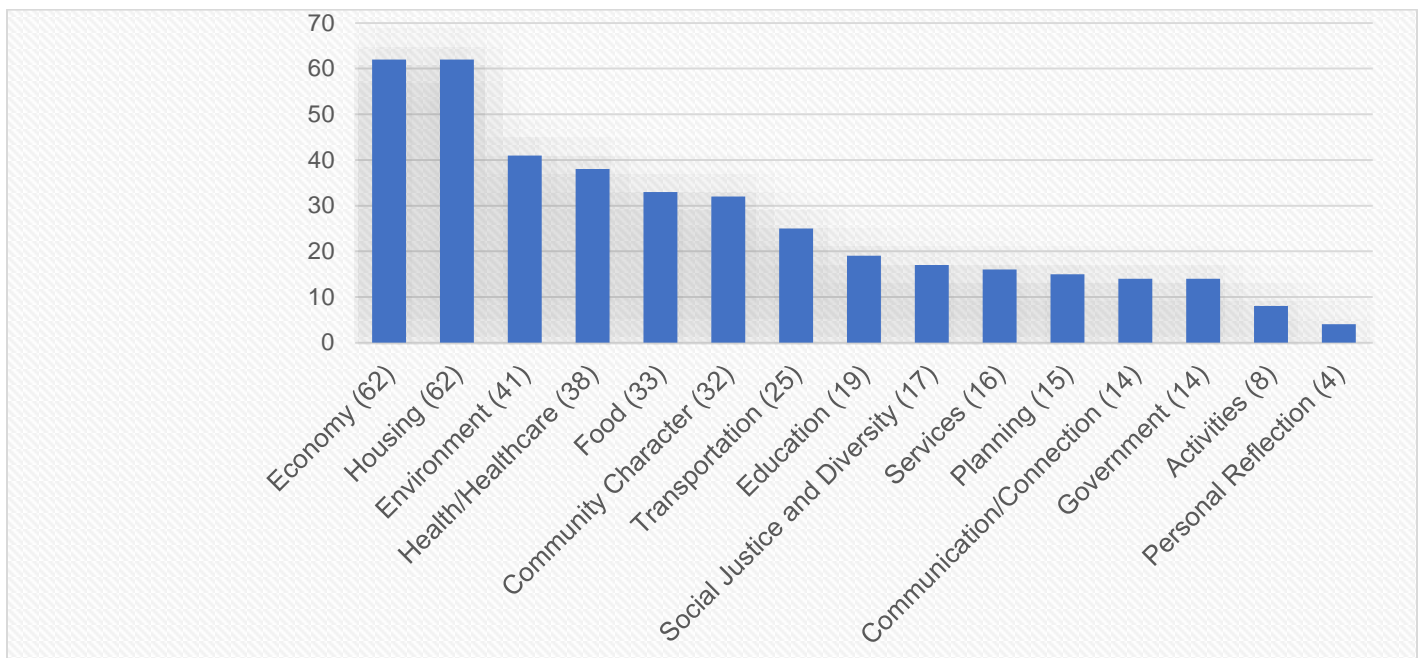
openable window.” “Re-vamping and re-funding DCD, along with adding flexibility to rules around dwelling construction that allow for a variety of safe and effective construction methods that do not add pollution to the environment and meet minimal safety standards.” “Help to those with substandard housing. Better their structures (even if not able to bring to code).”

- **Communication/Connection/Planning (24)** – There was support for the idea that our community could benefit from improving communications. Ideas like town halls, efforts to communicate with older people and other populations, and also teaching listening skills and non-violent communication techniques were noted. “A group that would meet to identify the issues that come from this survey, and from other sources in the community, and prioritize and publicize them.” “Building a sustainable movement for civic engagement to expand the capacity, interest and abilities of our community members to engage in local government and local issues that impact us all.” “Communicating and doing something now to make a visible change soon. People need to see forward movement.”
- **Economy (20)** – There were comments about over-reliance on the tourism economy. Others focused on supporting the economy with education and jobs in areas like the marine trades, especially for youth and young families. Living wages and equitable wealth distribution were mentioned. “What is our direction? Tourism and wealth immigration or supporting local resilience and existing residents/businesses (or some workable combination we haven't found yet).” “Creating a larger local economy (including building a much larger member base, both individuals and business and professional services).” “Removing restrictions, regulations, anti-business sentiment, establishing better business parks.” “Rebuilding opportunities for people returning to or entering the job market.” “Allowing businesses to start up throughout the county and provide jobs for American citizens.”
- **Healthcare/COVID-19 (19)** – Roughly half the comments were focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and public health response, including preparing for the 2nd round of COVID-19. Additionally, there was mention of healthcare for all, telemedicine, trauma recovery, and mental health. “Stemming the spread of this virus is first and foremost, essential so businesses can open up again without fear of spreading the virus more.” “Medicare for all & not with these heavy add-on copays supplemental insurances.” “How to be healthy without (or with at least 90% less) pharmaceuticals.”
- **Community Services (14)** – A number of comments focused on children, families, those most vulnerable, and the homeless. One noted that we were lucky that it occurred in the spring when we were able to expand local production of food, and the potential to use “the ship hulls in 50 degree water, the empty buildings around town” for food storage. Community gardens were also mentioned as a priority. “Finding ways to make sure those alone are not forgotten and checked on regularly.”
- **Community Character (13)** – A number of suggestions were for kindness, generosity, and compassion, getting to know neighbors, local sustainability, and working towards “sovereignty for water, power, housing and food” as priorities. One commented “Define community, what is prosperous? what is smart growth?” One noted “Keeping Brinnon rural.”
- **Environment (9)** – Addressing climate change was mentioned multiple times, along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and energy self-reliance. Also noted was decreasing the use of plastics and herbicides, and preservation of natural habitat. One commented “How we deal with the coming growth and reduce its impact on the natural values that most of us highly value.”
- **Personal Reflection (7)** – Suggestions that perhaps the first focus should be to ask what truly brings you joy, what are your priorities. “To not be afraid” and “face the facts” were other responses.



- **Politics (7)** – Commenters here were politically diverse. One commented “For people to get involved and run for office or join committees, come together to work on issues and be civil to everyone.”
- **Social Justice and Diversity (6)** – Social justice, equality for all, addressing animal cruelty, and reparations for First People were all noted.
- **Transportation (4)** – Decreasing our carbon footprint and car-free transportation including turning some streets into corridors for pedestrians and bikes only were mentioned.
- **Safety/Emergency Prep (4)** – Continue preparation for earthquakes and other catastrophes, and a citizen advisory committee to align emergency response to community needs were suggested.
- **Activities (3)** – Music and the well-known community events were listed as important along with supporting youth activities.
- **Education (1)**
- **Getting Back to Normal (1)**

### Q9: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE OTHER 3 TO 5 HIGHEST PRIORITIES TO WORK ON?



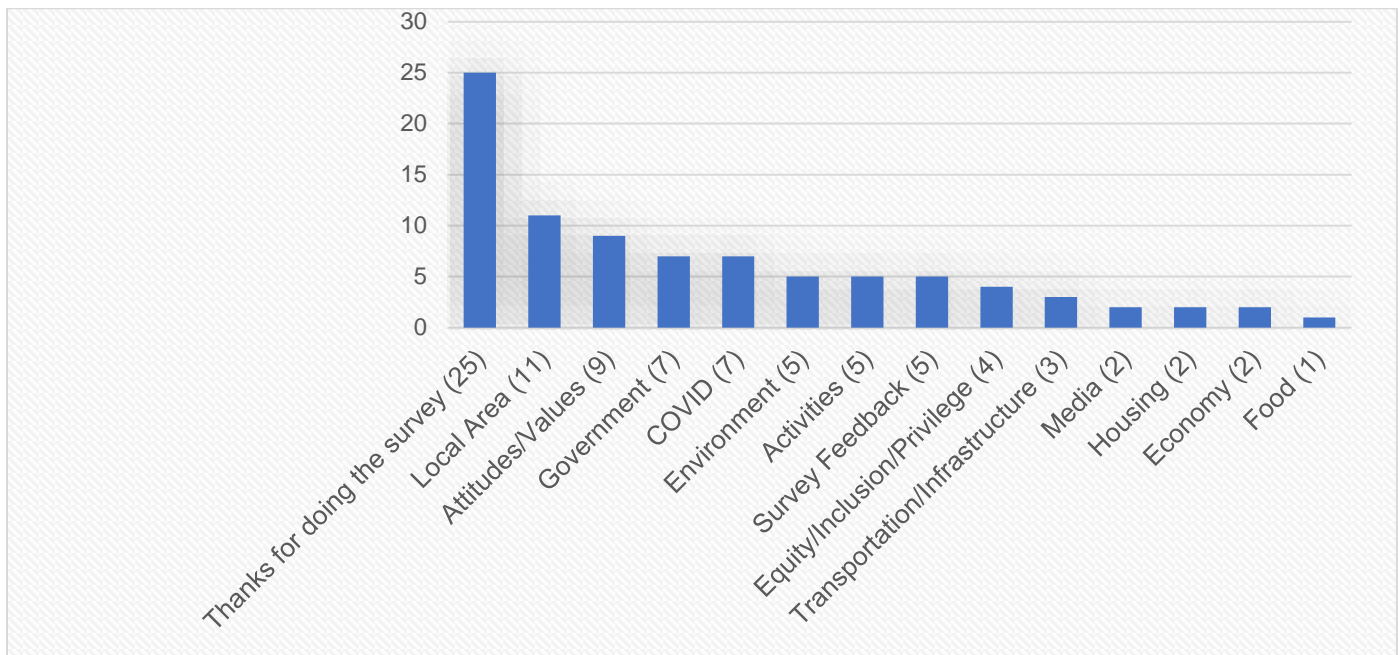
- **Economy (62)** – Commenters identified as priorities more diverse employment opportunities, living wages, sustainable businesses, meaningful work, closing the wealth gap, and jobs for young people. Some comments were for big box stores and some against. There was support for local manufacturing, employing the homeless in civic/community-sponsored jobs, reducing restrictions and regulations, arts-focused economic development, an alternative to the tourist economy, and economic self-reliance. Commenters suggested identifying businesses that could be expanded, having incentives for film production, sponsoring conferences, and implementing a complimentary currency. “Working on expanding and diversifying employment opportunities that will encourage working age people to remain in the county or to relocate here. This must include expanding and upgrading technical infrastructure to facilitate remote working.” “Promoting new businesses to locate here, help

locals create new businesses.” “Local business and self-employed recovery.” There was concern that these activities focus throughout the county and not just in Port Townsend.

- **Housing (62)** – Affordable housing was mentioned often, and housing availability in general, affordable rents, more programs for the homeless, loosening restrictions on building, having a community land trust, lowering taxes for low income folks, shared housing/co-housing, developing the fairgrounds and golf course with multigenerational housing, middle income housing, and support for a septic system for Quilcene. “A more enlightened approach to housing that's not exclusively market driven.” “Ending second home ownership and vacation rentals of homes that could house people long-term in our county.” “Tax penalties for “investment” real estate purchases, and overly restrictive CC&Rs.”
- **Environment (41)** – Common priorities were to protect our environment and keep it clean, including our waterways, prepare for climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase local renewable energy and community solar. “Divest from all infrastructure in high-risk areas such as downtown Port Townsend”, “...becoming an expert in ag and forestry efforts to address climate change.” There was a complaint about the smell from the mill and Growler noise. Commenters suggested ending clearcutting, ending spraying/fertilizers by timber companies, changing regulations concerning trees and bulldozing, and enacting policies related to dark sky.
- **Health/Healthcare (38)** – A number of comments regarded access to healthcare for all, reducing healthcare inequities, and mental health services as being a priority. Other priorities included drug addiction, telemedicine, outdoor exercise for seniors, helping our businesses with testing and contact tracing. “Development of a health care system devoted to fostering health rather than treating disease.” “Clearer information on how to open, real actions the community can share in to help, better understanding from OUR medical community of testing and prevention.” “Supporting aging folks in home exercise.” “Health as a human right.”
- **Food (33)** – Many comments on the need for and access to locally grown food, food security/resiliency, and helping the local farmers as priorities. Many comments also favored local gardening and community gardens. “Learning how to feed and care for ourselves in ways that also nourish the land and biodiversity.” “Healthier food and drink options in the store.” “Encourage more local food gardening on appropriate public lands and right-of-ways.”
- **Community Character (32)** – Priorities included supporting our youth by making it possible for them to live and work here, addressing their essential needs, and providing resources for children and parents. Many wished to preserve the small town feel. “Our highest aim should be for humility, equality and a truly caring and sharing community.” “How we can use this opportunity to make the community more resilient.” “Learning how to live in community in ways that honor individual gifts and autonomy.” “Indigenous knowledge of Native Americans and our own ethnic roots.”
- **Transportation (25)** – Public transportation was a priority mentioned often, as was supporting walking and biking, and having pedestrian only areas. Other comments included less expensive gas prices, concerns about potholes, minimizing car use, fast ferries to the San Juan’s and Seattle, managed/metered parking, reducing driving in city limits. “Better and more well managed transit service that actually meets the needs of all people living in area towns (Pt. Hadlock, Chimacum and PT) and includes students going to school, people going to work and people shopping, dining out or going to places for recreation.” “Discourage car transport and really support bike use.”
- **Education (19)** – Education was listed as a priority by many, including trade mentoring, getting kids back to school safely, specialized post high school apprenticeships/certifications, and expanded educational opportunities. “Re-imagining our educational/school systems to become much more community based.” “Maintaining skill craft and knowledge in our education.”

- **Social Justice and Diversity (17)** – Social justice, inclusivity, and diversity were mentioned frequently, including diversity in age, wealth, and viewpoint. Creating a welcoming atmosphere for people of color was expressed as a priority. “All lives can’t matter until Black lives matter. What does this mean for our primarily white community?? How can we become a true welcoming and safe community?? We need more discussion, focus and work in this area.” “Becoming more diverse culturally, racially, socioeconomically, and in terms of age.”
- **Services (16)** – Commenters requested support for families/children, people with addiction, those affected by COVID-19, access to internet for all, and public bathing facilities. Other priorities included additional public infrastructure, such as sewer and disposal services, child-care for workers, and more affordable utilities.
- **Planning (15)** – A number of people commented on the need for emergency preparedness, resiliency planning, and community development planning. Also identifying our assets and weaknesses, and coming up with a comprehensive plan. “Figuring out the priorities IS a priority- good question!” “Working in a way that puts whole SYSTEMS in place rather than isolated projects is import even if it’s one piece at a time.” “Figure out what’s important to the high quality of life here and protect it from being urbanized by the next cycle of wealthy urban climate refugees- otherwise we will become suburbia before we know it.”
- **Communication/Connection (14)** – Continue community dialogues, train citizens in non-violent communication, have forums for sharing a wider range of views. “Mindful listening - open dialog - question everything.” “Seek unadulterated facts and truth.” “Forums for sharing a wider range of views.” “Breaking from isolation and censorship.” “Educate Port Townsend that they are not the only place that matters in this county.”
- **Government (14)** – Comments were diverse, including following the laws, protecting civil liberties, defunding the military, reviewing the police/sheriff /fire department funding, limiting access to the Navy, de-escalation education for the police force, and creating a better policing system. “Education for our police force regarding home health checks, de-escalation in confrontations, race relations, and their own mental health. They need our support in order to keep doing a difficult job.” “County Commissioners who are more friendly toward local sustainability ideas.”
- **Activities (8)** – Commenters looked forward to participating once again in art, carnivals, youth activities, community dances, music, and all forms of social interaction. “Supporting our Artistic Community by creating permanent arts focused easements which dedicate 50% of downtown retail spaces to arts uses - Galleries, Art School, Music Venues, Dance, Handcrafts, Local artisanal food vendors etc.”
- **Personal Reflection (4)** – “Connecting to understanding what it means to be human.” “Learning how to hold ourselves and each other through challenging emotions like grief.” “NO DRAMA.”

## Q10: ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OR COMMENT ON?



- **Thanks (25)** – Many respondents offered thanks for putting out the survey, and appreciated being asked.
- **Local Area (11)** – A number of “I love this town” comments! “I am worried that PT will become another Sausalito ... geared primarily towards encouraging day-trip tourism, and neglecting local residents.” “I think we could be on the cusp of real success- 1) Alignment of Govt leadership- we have a number of new very talented leaders in the community- they bring a different culture/skill set re: community engagement 2) Strong not for profits- most of our quality of life issues are dealt with by a network of NGOs- rather than government- food bank, youth education, arts and culture....” “Can we seize the virus impacts and inventory what are essential businesses that we want to do everything we can to sustain? How can some be consolidated? Can we strengthen some to be sustained as employee owned cooperatives?”
- **Attitudes/Values (9)** - Too many silos, concerns about rural/Port Townsend divide. “I would like to see return to religious values.” “Covid shows us we can work together like nothing else has.” “We are all in this together and we need to take care of each other through caring and kindness and focus on what is really important and not get caught up in all the opinionated social media negative comments.” “We need to protect each other. ...We should be rescuing each other. We need to create a master list of people who are willing to help others. List their skills and resources etc.” “We need to do a better job of listening to those we disagree with. We are getting dangerously close to violence between the left and the right.”
- **Government (7)** – Comments ranged from praising local government – impressed by the city council and manager, to a concern that local governments “need to get better at informing the public about what is going on (in detail) in all departments, figuring out how they can collaborate with community members to develop better plans and outcomes...” to desires for younger leadership, a concern about the greater county area feeling not represented by their commissioners, and a comment that “I wish for a city council etc. that can finish what is begun, for public safety and nicer living areas for all. I am glad when things like fire department improvements occur—that’s encouraging.”
- **COVID-19 (7)** – Comments were made both about the lack of mask wearing and enforcement, and intolerance about the choice to wear masks or not, to a comment that “I am surprised at the point blank acceptance of the conventional narrative regarding options as to how to deal with Covid 19.” “I believe that 99% of the people like

me who receive this survey will simply ignore it because they understand the biased source of the survey. In the end, you will receive a bunch of responses that are supportive of the corona panic which you seek to extend." "I wish there was some enforcement of mask wearing. It would make it a lot easier to support our local businesses if us oldsters didn't feel so unsafe in the stores, many of which have narrow aisles. Better signage at entryways and employees that are empowered to request mask wearing by patrons."

- **Environment (5)** – Concerns were expressed about climate change and the need to prepare for it, including sea level rise, concerns about the environment in general, and the sustainability of our lifestyle. "We need to cherish our communities and the people who live here and treat the environment as if our lives depended on it. Because they do." "Our community and many communities are recycling, encouraging energy conservation, and reducing waste of food, clothing, and resources. In spite of these efforts, our planet is not sustainable: it will continue to degrade until it will no longer be livable." "I would like the right to silence - to listen to nature without gunfire or war planes. Peace is a very important value to me."
- **Activities (5)** – Monthly free outdoor movies downtown and at the county library, more playfulness, "We appreciated the effort that went into the Cake Picnic", and "The county fair has withered on the old tired vines. Too bad. It could be so wonderful."
- **Survey Feedback (5)** – Concerns that the survey was too long, and online, and thus will skew the input. Too overwhelming, and a check box format would have been better.
- **Equity/Inclusion/Privilege (4)** – "I mean to include racial and economic justice INHERENT in all of these things ... and do everything we can to support people in following their dreams, because each person has a piece of this puzzle. Let our community's creativity shine by letting people have more sovereignty! Consult local indigenous tribes and ask for their consult directly..." "I hope Jefferson County wakes up and asks, "Who can't, because I can?". "BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, People of Color." "Know we have a significant immigrant community who stays in the background for good reason."
- **Transportation/Infrastructure (3)** – "An idea to get money for roads. We did this in the community I came from, which was a VERY tax-averse town. The city did tons of outreach and education and convinced them to add a 4-cent gas tax ...The city was good at getting news out to people when certain roads were being repaired using money from the gas tax, showing them helped a lot." "Build the Hadlock Sewer," and "The water and utility bill is outrageous. Allow us to opt out of DM Disposal, or put in a bigger container and let us go with once a month..."
- **Media (2)** – "EVERYONE needs to stop listening to the fear tactics of the media." A concern was expressed that many Nextdoor posts are judgmental and closed minded.
- **Housing (2)** – Housing is important, one comment about not building on F and San Juan streets.
- **Economy (2)** – Concerns about the loss of innovation due to the pandemic, and one about NIMBY regarding industry.
- **Food (1)** – "Perhaps we could also tax food coming from outside the county to encourage and grow the local food economy?"

## Conclusion

The 170 responses from county residents expressed a diversity of opinions, including on healthcare, regulations, hopes for the future, tourism, and levels of impact. Common themes emerged regarding jobs and the economy, housing, resiliency, food, transportation, the environment, the strength of our people, etc. Many respondees provided very

detailed comments on the how they have been impacted, values they hope are retained, and their visions and priorities for the future.

We are deeply grateful for all those who took the time to respond, and we hope this report is useful to organizations throughout the county as we all continue our work toward the betterment of our community.